

## Claims

1. Information processing equipment comprising: an  
information storing means that records or reproduces data  
5 according to a plurality of power consumption modes; and an  
information processing means that controls the information  
storing means with respect to at least recording or  
reproduction of the data, characterized in that:

the information processing means forms command  
10 information for changing the power consumption mode of the  
information storing means to a target power consumption  
mode based on the state of control; and

the information storing means changes the power  
consumption mode of the information storing means based on  
15 the command information.

2. The information processing equipment according to Claim  
1, characterized in that:

the information processing means forms instruction  
information for instructing whether to change the power  
20 consumption mode, and

when change of the power consumption mode is not  
instructed by the instruction information, the information  
storing means makes a selection and changes the power  
consumption mode based on the state of control from the  
25 information processing means.

3. The information processing equipment according to Claim  
1 or Claim 2, characterized in that:

when the information storing means is not controlled by the information processing means for a predetermined time, the information processing means forms time information including the predetermined time for the information storing means to change the power consumption mode for itself, and

when the power consumption mode is to be changed based on the command information from the information processing means and the information processing means does not carry out control for the predetermined time or more, specified by the time information, the information storing means changes the power consumption mode for itself.

4. The information processing equipment according to Claim 1, Claim 2, or Claim 3, comprising:

a camera means that picks up the image of a subject and takes in the image as electrical signals, characterized in that:

when an image is picked up with the camera means, the information storing means changes the power consumption mode of the information storing means based on the command information.

5. The information processing equipment according to Claim 1, Claim 2, Claim 3, or Claim 4, comprising:

an external connection end for an external device to record or reproduce data to or from the information storing means, characterized in that:

when the external device is recording or reproducing the data to or from the storing means through the external connection end, the information storing means changes the power consumption mode based on the state of control from an external device connected with the external connection end with respect to at least recording or reproducing of the data.

6. A power consumption control method associated with an information storing means, carried out in information processing equipment comprising: the information storing means that records or reproduces data according to a plurality of power consumption modes, and an information processing means that controls the information storing means with respect to at least recording or reproducing of the data, characterized in that the method comprises:

a step in which the information processing means produces command information for changing the power consumption mode of the information storing means to a target power consumption mode based on the state of control, and

a step in which the information storing means changes the power consumption mode of the information storing means based on the command information.

7. The power consumption control method according to Claim 6, characterized in that the method comprises:

a step in which the information processing means forms instruction information for instructing whether to change the power consumption mode, and

a step in which when change of the power consumption mode is not instructed by the instruction information, the information storing means makes a selection and changes the power consumption mode based on the state of control from the information processing means.

8. The power consumption control method according to Claim 6 or Claim 7, characterized in that the method comprises:

a step in which when the information storing means is not controlled by the information processing means for a predetermined time, the information processing means forms time information including the predetermined time for the information storing means to change the power consumption mode for itself, and

a step in which when the power consumption mode is to be changed based on the command information from the information processing means and the information processing means does not carry out control for the predetermined time or more, specified by the time information, the information storing means changes the power consumption mode for itself.

9. The power consumption control method according to Claim 6, Claim 7, or Claim 8, comprising:

a camera means that picks up the image of a subject and takes in the image as electrical signals, characterized in that:

when an image is picked up with the camera means, the information storing means changes the power consumption mode of the information storing means based on the command information.

- 5 10. The power consumption control method according to Claim 6, Claim 7, Claim 8, or Claim 9, comprising:

an external connection end for an external device to record or reproduce data to or from the information storing means, characterized in that:

- 10 when the external device is recording or reproducing the data to or from the storing means through the external connection end, the information storing means changes the power consumption mode based on the state of control from an external device connected with the external connection  
15 end with respect to at least recording or reproducing of the data.